

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Briesen Airfield

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 23 July 1954

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED

1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Briesen airfield between 23 June and 2 July 1954:

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23 June. About 0700, 6 Il-28s, individually took off at a distance of 1,000 meters. After the take-off, the aircraft circles once over the field at a high altitude and then disappeared toward the west. The aircraft returned to the field about 1100 and landed at intervals of 3 minutes. At 1200, the 6 Il-28s again took off and landed at 1800.

26 June. Between 0800 and 1300, 124 flights of jet bombers were counted. The take-offs and landings were made individually. Eight aircraft simultaneously circled over the field at different altitude. Each aircraft remained aloft for about 40 minutes.

29 June. Between 0700 and 1200, 35 take-offs and landings were made by Il-28s. Five aircraft individually took off at intervals of 2 minutes. They assembled in wedge formations on 5 and then circled twice over the field. The landings were made individually after about 30 minutes. Then the next 5 aircraft took off.

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2 July. Between 2039 and 0200, night flying was practiced. A total of 95 flights were made. Six to 8 aircraft were simultaneously aloft and circled in the near vicinity of the field. During the air activity, the airfield was brightly lighted and the light along the runway and taxiway were switched on. A row of 3 red lamps marked the eastern extension of the runway and 2 green lamps were switched on at the western end of the runway.

The position lights of the Il-28s were also switched on. On the other days not mentioned between 22 June and 5 July, there was no air activity. About 30 Il-28s and U-Il-28s, were parked on the dispersal areas along the southern taxiway.¹

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2. Members of the ground personnel stated that the officers of the bomber unit in Briesen had come from Kasan. Almost all of the officers of the unit were very young, did not speak German, and apparently were not familiar with the German conditions.²

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1. Comment. Briesen airfield is occupied by a bomber regiment equipped with 25 to 30 Il-28s. It is unknown at which airfield the 6 Il-28s made intermediate landings on 23 June, when they were absent from Briesen airfield for 4 to 6 days.

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2. Comment. This is the first information that the crews of the Il-28s came from Kasan.

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3. Comment. Motor vehicle [redacted] have not been reported so far from East Germany.

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